

An Important Public Health and Safety Message About

ANTHRAX

and Other BIOLOGICAL AGENT THREATS...

from the Lincoln Mayor's Office; the Lancaster County Commission; the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; the Lincoln Police and Fire Departments; and the County Sheriff's and Emergency Management Offices.

Lincoln and Lancaster County, like many localities around the country, are concerned about the recent anthrax threats. There are no anthrax cases in Lincoln or Lancaster County. Furthermore, local public health and law enforcement officials encourage the public to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines in the event of suspected anthrax and other biological agent threats. Anthrax is not contagious and does not spread from one person to another. If an individual receives an unopened letter/package(s) with no suspicious markings or indicators, and they are concerned about the letter/package(s), they should not open it and throw it away.

- Those who have concerns about the threat of biological agents or who have received a suspicious letter or package are asked to call these NON-EMERGENCY numbers:
- Lincoln Police Department **441-6000** Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department **441-8065** or **8053**
- Call 911 **ONLY** if you receive a suspicious unopened letter or package marked with a threatening message such as "anthrax" or an envelope with powder or if powder spills onto a surface.

CDC GUIDELINES

How to Handle ANTHRAX and Other BIOLOGICAL AGENT THREATS

DO NOT PANIC

1. Disease can be prevented after exposure to the anthrax spores by early treatment with the appropriate antibiotics. Anthrax is not spread from one person to another person.
2. For anthrax to be effective as a weapon or covert agent, it must be aerosolized into very small particles. This is difficult to do, and requires a great deal of technical skill and special equipment.

SUSPICIOUS UNOPENED LETTER OR PACKAGE MARKED WITH THREATENING MESSAGE SUCH AS "ANTHRAX":

1. Do not shake or empty the contents.
2. PLACE the envelope or package in a plastic bag or some other type of container.
3. If you do not have any container, then COVER the envelope or package.
4. LEAVE the room and CLOSE the door, or section off the area. Keep others away.
5. WASH your hands with soap and water.
6. What to do next...
 - If you are at HOME, report the incident to 911.
 - If you are at WORK, report the incident to 911 and notify your building security official or an available supervisor.
7. LIST all people who were in the room or area when this suspicious letter or package was recognized.

ENVELOPE WITH POWDER AND POWDER SPILLS OUT ONTO SURFACE:

1. DO NOT try to CLEAN UP the powder. COVER the spilled contents immediately.
2. LEAVE the room and CLOSE the door, or section off the area. Keep others away.
3. WASH your hands with soap and water and prevent spreading any powder.
4. What to do next...
 - If you are at HOME, report the incident to 911.

- If you are at WORK, report the incident to 911 and notify your building security official or an available supervisor.
5. REMOVE heavily contaminated clothing as soon as possible and place in a plastic bag, or some other container that can be sealed. Give the clothes to emergency responders.
6. SHOWER with soap and water only as soon as possible.
7. Make a list of all people who were in the room or area, especially those who had actual contact with the powder. Give this list to both the local public health authorities and law enforcement.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT ROOM CONTAMINATION BY AEROSOLIZATION (AIRBORNE INFECTION):

1. Turn off local fans or ventilation units in the area.
2. LEAVE area immediately.
3. CLOSE the door, or section off the area to prevent others from entering.
4. What to do next...
 - If you are at HOME, report the incident to 911.
 - If you are at WORK, report the incident to 911 and notify your building security official or an available supervisor.
5. SHUT down air handling system in the building, if possible.
6. Make a list of all people who were in the room or area. Give this list to both the local public health authorities and law enforcement.



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